

7 February 2011

NRM Uniform Committee Meeting Notes

The Corps NRM Uniform Committee met in Austin, Texas from January 31 – February 3, 2011 with the Contracting Officer, the uniform contractor (VF Imagewear), and the uniform committees from the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Park Police. The Corps committee consisted of Dean Bonifacio (LRD), Linda Clapp (SPD), Michele Fromdahl (NWD-M), Ralph Gendron (NAD), Susan Haney (SWD), Jill Davis (SAD), Stuart Chad (NWP), Dale “Kyle” Lock (MVD) and Sara Jernigan (Chair). Steve Austin (HQ) joined the meeting on Feb. 3, 2011.

The committee reviewed all the comments collected from the annual uniform questionnaire. They also reviewed contractor’s website and developed a list of topics to discuss.

The topics of discussion can be divided into four categories; Recommendations, Requested Changes, Follow-on Research and the Draft ER and EP.

The Uniform Committee does not make final decisions pertaining to items in the uniform program. The role of the committee is to field comments from the field, address these concerns with the contractor, evaluate proposed changes either from the field or the contractor, and finally to make recommendations to Headquarters for adoption. Usually the recommendations are adopted however the reader should understand the recommendations are not final until approved by HQ.

Recommendations We recommended the following be approved:

1. Revise the existing polo with a new lighter weight with the Corps Logo on the front but no castle on the back. This should also be available this FY.
2. The existing nameplate be replaced with a new nameplate with just the castle logo as opposed to the “shoulder patch” logo.
3. Buy out of sun hat and introduction of new sun hat currently in NPS program.

Requested Changes We requested the contractor take the following actions:

1. Supply the hood and jackets as one item (due to the color difference when ordered separately). This has been discussed previously, but not implemented.
2. Review and correct sizes for drop down list on ordering site.

Follow-on Research The committee asked the contractor to research the following and report back to the committee:

1. Continue to seek a replacement fabric for the Brush Pants. We want a fabric that will be just as tough yet not fade, as the current 100% cotton fabric does.
2. Continue to seek a more elastic fleece for the fleece cap. The existing cap does not stretch well thereby not fitting all heads.

3. Explore the cost of replacing the “shoulder patch” on the Winter Cap with the smaller red castle.
4. Continue to research and develop a potential new lightweight trouser for consideration.
5. Contact the subcontractor to determine if the Campaign Hats can be ordered with a removable sweatband such that it could be laundered.
6. Explore a boot sock to add to the program.
7. Explore and correct the paint flaking off the belts.

The contractor showed the committee new items that have potential for the uniform program. These need further development before implementation.

1. One item for consideration was is light weight jacket which was recommended to replace the windbreaker.

Draft ER and EP The committee reviewed revision of the draft ER and EP as per recommended guidance from Office of Counsel review at Headquarters. After final revisions, the committee will resubmit the draft to HQ for approval.

Current contract expiration was discussed briefly. New contract will go out for bid in near future.

Respectfully,

Sara Jernigan
Chairman, National Uniform Committee